highway is a 4-lane divided carriageway with properly designed curves and road junctions, proper road signs and markings, cattle crossings, trucks and bus lay byes etc. and therefore, inherently safe. In addition, a number of other safety measures have been taken such as highway patrolling, ambulance and crane services, etc. The road surface is good and road lighting is not provided on highways because vehicles move under their own lights.

Damage to Highways in Orissa due to floods

2722. MISS FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the National Highways in Orissa have been damaged due to rains and floods;

(b) if so, the steps taken to verify poor quality of construction and the action to be initiated against the contractors; and

(c) by when these NHs would be repaired?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) Yes, Sir. National Highways 200,201,215,6,23,42,5 and 5A were affected in some stretches by recent incessant heavy rains and floods.

(b) Damages have occurred due to heavy rains and floods. Therefore initiating action against contractors does not arise.

(c) Immediate restoration works have been completed.

National Highways Development Projects

2723. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Rs. 60,000 crore Highway Development Project is being funded through the traditional combination of budgetary support, multilateral assistance, allocation from the cess pool and private participation;

(b) whether it is also a fact that several options have been kept open for private investors to spur investment in this sector; and

(c) if so, the details of the Highways Projects undergoing and proposed to be undertaken for execution by attracting private investment and by budgetary support. Separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) Government has undertaken National Highway Development Project (NHDP) estimated to cost Rs. 54,000 crore

through a combination of budgetary support, multilateral assistance, cess fund and private participation.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Out of the total length of 13,252 km. under NHDP, a length of 1527 km. is completed, 3046 km. is on-going, and the remaining is to be taken up. Of this, two projects covering a length of 143 km. have already been taken up under BOT and another 616 km. is proposed to be taken up.

A ppointments and backlog position of SCs/STs in NHAI

2724. SHRi R.N. ARYA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pkased to state:

(a) the details Of appointments made from 1st Januaiy, 2000 till date in the National Highways Authority of India from IRCC and outside according to posts-scales;

(b) the number of SCs/STs candidates who were taken/tested/ interviewed;

(c) how many candidates belonging to General and SCs/STs candidates were appointed; and

(d) the reasons for not filling up of SCs/STs quota'.'

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GENERAL (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) The details are given in the Statement. *(See* below).

(b) Out of 312 SC/ST candidates tested/intei viewed, 48 SC/ST candidates were selected.

(c) 196 General and 15 SC/ST candidates have been appointed.

(d) Candidates for filling up SC quota have been selected. Appointment orders are being issued. ST quota could not be filled up due tp non-availability of suitable candidates.

Statement

Appointment and backlog position of SCs/STs in NHAI

SIN	Name of Post	Pay Scale (Rs.)	IRCC	Outside sources
1.	Member	18400-22400	—	1
2.	Chief General Manager	18400-22400	—	3
3.	General Manager	14300-18300	—	27
4.	Director (MR)	15000/-	—	1
5.	Dy. General Manager	12000-16500	—	26